

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5949

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4284

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, ENRG, TECH, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA'S RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4184

1. SUMMARY: WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, ARGENTINA FEELS IT HAS LIVED UP TO THE US RECOMMENDATION MADE DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE LAST NOVEMBER CONCERNING THE FIRST STAGE FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION; THE GOA IS EXPECTING AN ACTIVE US RESPONSE. THE GOA HAS NOT MADE A DECISION, AT LEAST OFFICIALLY, WHETHER OR NOT TO WAIVE THE TREATY INTO FORCE IMMEDIATELY AND IS PLAYING THE PNE ISSUE AT A LOW KEY. THE GOA IS PREPARING A RESPONSE TO THE US NOTE ON THE THREE STAGES OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION, INTENDING TO PROVIDE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. ARGENTINA IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO SHOW ITS POSITIVE ACTIONS TOWARD THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY
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BUT IS HOLDING OPTIONS OPEN ON FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AND PNE'S. WE EXPECT THIS WILL REMAIN THE POSITION AT LEAST FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. EMBASSY SCICOUNS MET THIS WEEK WITH A NUMBER OF NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA) AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIALS, INCLUDING JORGE

COLL AND MARTINEZ FAVINI OF CNEA AND COUNSELOR FERNANDO PETRELLA, DIVISION OF DISARMAMENT MFA (PETRELLA IS ACTING FOR AMB. ORTIZ DE ROZAS WHILE HE IS AT UN), TO REVIEW THE GOA OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE RATIFICATION OF THRE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) LAST FRIDAY.

3. JORGE COLL INDICATED THAT, WITH THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO, ARGENTINA HAS LIVED UP TO ITS AGREEMENT DISCUSSED DURING THE VANCE VISIT LAST NOVEMBER CONCERNING THE FIRST STATE FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION. MARTINEZ FAVINI MENTIONED THAT CNEA AS A TECHNICAL AGENCY RECOMMENDED THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO, BUT IT WOULD BE THE DECISION OF THE MFA AND THE CAL (LEGAL ADVISORY COMMISSION) AS TO WHETHER THE TREATY WILL BE WAIVED INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID IN EFFECT THAT ARGENTINA HAD DE FACTO SAFEGUARDS ON ITS NUCLEAR REACTOR PLANTS AND FUEL PROCESSING PLANT; BUT HE FEELS, AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL, ARGENTINA WOULD EVENTUALLY FOLLOW UP WITH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IAEA FOR FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WHETHER OR NOT THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO GOES INTO EFFECT. HE MENTIONED THAT CUBA AND GUYANA ARE STILL HOLDOUTS FROM SIGNING.

4. WE DISCUSSED THE PNE ISSUE AND COLL SAID THAT CASTRO
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MADERO WANTS TO HOLD THAT OPTION OPEN FOR THE PRESENT, BUT THEY WOULD NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. COLL SAID CNEA WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH THE US IN NUCLEAR MATTERS AND WAS PLEASED THAT THE SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR THE US ORIGIN FUEL FOR PERU WAS APPROVED AND THAT TRANSACTION COMPLETED. HE INDICATED THAT CNEA HAS BEEN STUDYING THE NEW US NON-PROLIFERATION ACT AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

5. COUNSELOR PETRELLA TOLD SCICOUNS THAT NOW THE GOA HAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO, THE DECISIONS ON THE WAIVER OF ARTICLE 28 WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AMB. ORTIZ DE ROZAS RETURNS TO ARGENTINA FROM THE SSOD. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GOA DEPARTMENTS AND WITH THE OFFICIE OF THE PRESIDENCY. HE INDICATED THAT MFA HAS BEEN STUDYING THE US DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON NUCLEAR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4284

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COOPERATION AND THE VARIOUS STAGES DISCUSSED WITH
SECRETARY VANCE LAST NOVEMBER AND REITERATED ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY EMBASSY OFFICIALS. THE MFA
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CNEA AND THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENCY IS PREPARING AN ANSWER TO THE US DOCUMENT
THAT SHOULD BE READY IN A FEW DAYS.

6. COUNSELOR PETRELLA EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOA HAS
RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE US RECOMMENDATION RELATIVE
TO TLATELOLCO, AND THIS SHOULD PROVIDE A BETTER
ATMOSPHERE FOR FUTHER COOPERATION. PETRELLA MENTIONED
THE MONTES SPEECH AT THE UN WAS SOMEWHAT STRONG AGAINST
THE NPT IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE HARD LINERS AND TO
SET UP PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF
TLATELOLCO. HE STATED ARGENTINA WANTED TO MAKE AN
HONEST EFFORT TOWARD NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT
AND TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE THIS TO
THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS WAS ONE OF THE
ELEMENTS THAT ENCOURAGED GENERAL VIDELA'S RECENT LETTER
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TO PRESIDENT CARTER CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS AND
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENTS: THE GOA VIEWS THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO AS LIVING UP TO ITS COMMITMENT AS DISCUSSED IN THE NOVEMBER TALKS IN BUENOS AIRES WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND FEELS THAT US SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS WITH SOME KIND OF RESPONSE OR COMMENT. THE GOA IS PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM, HAS DECLARED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS LATELY (SUCH AS CASTRO MADERO'S SPEECHS ON MAY 13 AND 31) THAT ARGENTINA WILL NOT MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND HAS OFFERED COOPERATION TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. THESE ARE ALL EFFORTS TO SHOW ITS POSITIVE ACTIONS TOWARD PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. HOWEVER, THE GOA IS HOLDING ITS OPTIONS OPEN ON THE USE OF PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS AND IS HESITATING ON FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS BECAUSE OF REPROCESSING. IT IS OUR GUESS THAT, AT THIS TIME, ARGENTINA WILL NOT WAIVE THE CONDITIONS OF ARTICLE 28 OF TLATELOLCO AND IS WAITING FOR THE NEXT MOVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ARENA. MEANWHILE, THE GOA IS MOVING AHEAD WITH AN ACTIVE NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND POWER PROGRAM. THIS WAS EMPHATICALLY STATED BY CASTRO MADERO IN HIS SPEECH OF MAY 31 ON THE CELEBRATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY DAY IN ARGENTINA. WE ARE REPORTING ON THIS IN A SEPARATE CABLE.
CASTRO

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